

A TRIBUTE TO SPENCER MARK
RITCHIE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Spencer Ritchie who is leaving the Hill this week to finish his last semester and pursue his degree at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, and then maybe even law school. The efforts and energy of Spencer will be missed dearly by all members of my office.

Spencer is a first-rate Southern gentleman with a keen understanding of people, poise and patience; the latter is most needed when juggling numerous tasks while managing the front desk.

He conquered the thankless jobs of being the gatekeeper, all the while supporting my entire staff and office guests. Because of his academic performance and student leadership, Texas Tech selected Spencer to represent the University as a Presidential Intern—and they could not have selected a more well-rounded young man who puts priorities like faith and family first.

Although he's only been with the office for a short time, he's left a lasting impression on many. Numerous constituents and visitors have commented to my staff and me that Spencer has an amazing way with making people feel welcome. Spencer has the unique ability to make every guest feel like family—and after meeting Spencer, they wanted to be Texans too!

His knowledge, insight, guidance and generosity have been inspiring to others. Though Spencer's good graces will be missed in Washington, I know that our loss is most definitely Texas Tech's gain.

He enjoyed a unique and historic experience and one which I hope will serve him well as he continues his education and begins his career. You name it—he's done it. No job is too big or too little for Spencer. He just does it—and he does it enthusiastically with a smile on his face and a laugh for others. He's given Capitol tours in the wake of September 11th. He's welcomed tired tourists from Texas! He's written letters and called constituents. I was proud to have him up front as an ambassador, if you will, for the people of the Third District.

So much of what we do in Congress is done for the next generation, for young people like Spencer. He can be proud that what we have done in this Congress has not only been done for him—but with him.

Like each Member of Congress, he is now a part of this institution. And as of Friday, he will be a part of its history. I wouldn't be surprised if he may even be part of its future, returning some day as a staff member or even a Representative!

Too many Americans do not have a full understanding of how hard the staffs of Members of Congress work, how conscientious they are and how much they care about doing the right thing for their country, regardless of whether they are conservatives or liberals, moderates, Republicans, Democrats or Independents.

Spencer has learned that lesson firsthand. So he will have something that many of his neighbors and friends and relatives will not have had: hands on experience of how the

greatest democratic institution in the world works.

He will have the opportunity to go back and tell our fellow citizens that the system works—and that it works well! And that they need to participate, not necessarily run for Congress, but to participate by voting. By speaking out. By writing. By communicating—by involving themselves in the democratic process that makes our great nation a beacon of freedom and liberty!

I wish Spencer luck and look forward to the day when I meet him again—as a proud Texas Tech graduate and SAM JOHNSON office alum!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative CAL DOOLEY's motion to instruct conferees to agree to Senate provisions that would lift a ban on private financing of agricultural sales to Cuba. Unfortunately due to reasons beyond my control, I was not able to vote; had I been able to vote, I would have voted in favor of lifting the ban on private financing of agricultural sales to Cuba.

The Dooley motion to instruct conferees, relating to Sec. 335 of the farm bill and agricultural trade with Cuba, permits only private financing of agricultural sales to Cuba, and maintains the United States ban on government financing. The Dooley provision says that that private enterprise should make lending decisions. The Federal Government should not be in the position of denying private entities the right to finance sales of agricultural goods to Cuba. Under current law, no provision of credit from a United States financial entity of any kind is allowed. United States agricultural exporters must either arrange for credit through an overseas bank, or must insist on cash in advance from the Cuban importer.

Even with these cumbersome restrictions, United States farmers have been able to realize more than \$35 million in sales to Cuba within the last 3 months, including Kansas wheat. Cuba has purchased a wide range of American products, including rice, chicken, soybeans, wheat, corn, and vegetable oil.

The Cuba Policy Foundation recently released a study showing the embargo of Cuba is costing United States farmers up to \$1.24 billion in annual exports to Cuba, and another \$3.6 billion in agricultural related output. Moreover, the American public supports agricultural trade with Cuba. In a 2001 poll, conducted for the Cuba Policy Foundation, 71.3 percent of Americans agreed that American companies should be allowed to sell food to Cuba. My State of Kansas' potential income from Cuban food exports is predicted at \$38,770,000 per year including the creation of 1,098 new jobs.

Today, the 40-plus year-old embargo against Cuba has failed to achieve the policy objectives of the United States. The cold war has been history for well over a decade; why continue to make the Cuban people and American farmers suffer for a war we won on so many other fronts?

TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAIN JAMES E.
WALKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great principle and faith, U.S. Army Chaplain James E. Walker of Columbia, South Carolina. This is a man whose path I crossed 30 years ago to the month. He was a bright, young student at C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia then, and was selected to introduce me as the speaker of their Honors and Awards Day, when I was in Governor John West's office. The event was a memorable one for me, but I had no idea that my comments at the time would touch the soul of young James Walker. To this day, he still has the program from the event and remembers my urging to set goals and make plans to achieve them. These sentiments I have expressed countless times over the years when visiting school groups. Yet this is one of few opportunities I have had to join in celebrating with a young man who took my words to heart and achieved amazing things as an adult.

On Thursday, May 2, 2002, Chaplain Walker receives the promotion to Army Colonel at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. On that day his story will come full circle to the place where it began. In his hometown, Chaplain Walker will officially achieve this well-deserved ranking as a reflection of his hard work and dedication.

On September 11, 2001, I was on Capitol Hill watching the smoke rise from the Pentagon in disbelief. However, Chaplain Walker had no time that day to stop and watch the tragedies unfold before his eyes. He, too, was in the Washington area. He was at Ground Zero—the Pentagon—ministering to those who were wounded and in shock. In the subsequent weeks, Chaplain Walker served tirelessly at the Pentagon's makeshift triage station for three weeks to "care for the wounded, minister to the living and honor the dead." For this service, our nation owes him a debt of gratitude.

This tremendous strength in the face of adversity is a hallmark of Chaplain Walker's career. He is one of 138 African-American Army Chaplains among the 2,000 Chaplains serving the Army worldwide. His military service has taken him to Desert Storm where he ministered to troops in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait. For his skilled pastoral work in trying times, he was awarded the Saudi-Kuwait Liberation Medal. Chaplain Walker has received numerous other commendations including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southeast Asia Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

This outstanding service record was built on the strong foundation he received growing up in Columbia. He graduated C.A. Johnson High School and earned a Bachelor of Science from my alma mater, South Carolina State College. He served seven years in the Army as a Signal Officer before becoming a chaplain. He received his Master of Divinity and